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PATENT
1403-0212P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: NARIHIRO et al. Conf.: 9156

Appl. No.: 09/903,694 Group: 1714

Filed: July 13, 2001 Examiner: Tae H. Yoon

For: RUBBER COMPOSITION FOR TIRE TREAD

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 27, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief of November 27, 2006, and consistent with MPEP 1205.03, appellants submit herewith the following corrected portions of the Appeal Brief:

III. Status of Claims

V. Status of Claimed Subject Matter

Respectfully submitted,

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III. Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected and under appeal.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 are cancelled.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The present invention is directed to a studless tire which possesses improved performance on snow and ice.

As described at independent claim 1, the claimed invention is directed to a studless tire having a tire tread containing a rubber composition (page 4, lines 19-24). The rubber composition comprises (a) a diene rubber (page 5, lines 7-15), 2 to 30 parts by weight of (b) glass fibers (page 5, lines 16-21; page 6, lines 20-26), (c) at least one member selected from the group consisting of carbon black (page 7, lines 14-19; page 8, lines 4-10) and silica (page 7, lines 20-27; page 8, lines 11-17), and 1 to 15 parts by weight (page 10, lines 8-13) of (d-1) aluminum hydroxide (page 9, lines 2-27; page 10, line 1) softer than the glass fibers and having an average particle-size of less than 25 μm and/or (d-2) silicone rubber powders (page 10, lines 16-27; page 11, lines 1-11) based on 100 parts by weight of the diene rubber.

As described on page 22, lines 16-20 of the present application, the claimed invention enables improved performance on ice and snow to be achieved while improving abrasion resistance and maintaining dispersibility of the reinforcing agent without increasing the rubber hardness.